

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1090
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, IS, JO
SUBJECT: BETTER NEWS FROM MILGOV ON ANERA PROGRAM

REF: JERUSALEM 1421

1. LOCAL ANERA REP SELZ HAS TOLD US THAT HIS JUNE 13 MEETING WITH WEST BANK MILGOV BEN ELIEZER WENT FAIRLY WELL. MILGOV HAD REVIEWED ALL OF ANERA'S 11 PROJECTS FOR FY 1978 AND APPROVED ALL BUT TWO--HALHUL MARKET AND JORDAN VALLEY AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS COOPERATIVE. THIS REPRESENTS A DEFINITE SIGN OF PROGRESS OVER MAY 19 MEETING WITH AVITSOUR (SEE REFTEL) WHEN ONLY FOUR HAD BEEN APPROVED.

2. CONCERNING HALHUL MARKET, MILGOV SAID THAT HE WOULD STUDY IT FURTHER BUT WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT PROJECT WAS SUITABLE FOR ANERA'S PROGRAM. SELZ COMMENTED TO US THAT IT LOOKS VERY MUCH AS THOUGH WEST BANK-MILGOV POLITICS ARE INVOLVED HERE WITH MILGOV DECLINING TO APPROVE THIS PROJECT BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO EXTRACT SOME QUID FROM HALHUL MAYOR MILHAM. (AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL FROM OUR PREVIOUS REPORTING, MILGOV HAS YET TO HAVE INITIAL
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MEETING WITH MILHAM WHO IS CONSIDERED VERY STAUNCH PRO-PLO NATIONALIST.) IN ANY EVENT, SELZ CONSIDERS MILGOV REFUSAL AS NOT FINAL AND ADVISES US TO WAIT AND SEE HOW MILHAM'S EVENTUAL ENCOUNTER WITH MILGOV TURNS OUT.

3. MILGOV SAID THAT HE HAD APPROVED THE HEBRON POLY-TECHNIC ON CONDITION THAT ANERA ALSO BE WILLING IN

FUTURE TO HELP OTHER INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS ISLAMIC INSTITUTE IN HEBRON--A PROJECT SPONSORED BY SHEIKH JABAARI AND FAMILY. IN ADDITION TO SOLICITING ANERA'S HELP FOR ISLAMIC INSTITUTE, MILGOV ASKED THAT ANERA CONSIDER TWO OTHER WEST BANK PROJECTS--A PLANNED NEW VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER IN JENIN SPONSORED BY THE PATIENTS' FRIEND SOCIETY AND A PROJECT IN NABLUS UNDER THE RED CRESCENT SOCIETY FOR BLIND AND DISABLED. SELZ TOLD US THAT HE WILL LOOK INTO THE FEASIBILITY OF THESE PROJECTS.

4. ONE OTHER INTERESTING NOTE INVOLVED THE ISRAELI TURNAROUND ON THE AL NAJAH UNIVERSITY PROJECT IN NABLUS. THIS PROJECT HAD BEEN FLATLY DISAPPROVED BY AVITSOUR AT MAY 19 MEETING "BECAUSE OF MILGOV OPPOSITION." A VISIT TO THE MILGOV BY AL NAJAH'S PRIME SPONSOR, WEST BANK NOTABLE HIKMAT AL MASRI, APPARENTLY WAS SUFFICIENT TO GAIN MILGOV APPROVAL.

COMMENT: ALL IN ALL, THINGS ARE LOOKING GOOD FINALLY FOR ANERA FY-1978 PROGRAM ALTHOUGH THE IMPORTANT HALHUL PROJECT IS STILL HANGING. SELZ IS GRATEFUL FOR EMBASSY TEL AVIV'S APPROACH TO GOI. WE JUST WISH THAT ONE OF THESE YEARS, ANERA WOULD NOT BE FORCED TO RUN THE OBSTACLE COURSE OF GRUDGING ISRAELI APPROVAL.
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